

February 2014

Monthly Newsletter of Pioneer Bible Church

Good tidings



Trusting God's Love **Women's Event**

On Saturday, January 25 a special event was held here at PBC with guest speaker Warka Dailey. The topic, "Trusting God's Love," was delivered with eloquence to a large group of women enjoying coffee & cookies while learning this fundamental truth.

Warka, a retired Spanish interpreter who worked for the court, lives in the town of El Dorado. (She has lived in El Dorado county since 1978!) Warka has been widowed for 7 years, although she has plenty of loving family around her: she is the mother of 4 magnificent children (and their spouses!) and grandmother to 4 boys. She attends Faith Bible Church in Citrus Heights.

Last February, with encouragement from her friend of many years Vivian Rootness, Warka spoke on the same topic at Safe Bible Church in Vacaville.

Continued on page 3...

In This Issue

1 & 3

"Trusting God's Love" Event

2

Firewood Ministry

An Update from Becky Jose

3, 4, & 5

Mexico Outreach Report

4

Tamale Casserole Recipe

5

Child Sponsorship Matters

Keeping the Flame Alive: Firewood Ministry Warms the Needy

One of the most important ministries here at PBC is also one of the least well-known. The firewood ministry is instrumental in helping at-risk people in our community stay warm when the mercury drops.

Firewood ministry has been ongoing at our church for two decades, for most of that time under the leadership of Pastor Rob Langford. Two years ago, deacon "B.J." Bill Jensen stepped in as co-ordinator of the program.

When a family needs help with wood, they first call the church office. The details of their situation are passed on to B.J., who arranges to get firewood to them. "We obviously can't give everyone who calls 3-4 cords of wood to get them through the winter," B.J. says. "But sometimes people need a truckload to tide them over, and that's where PBC comes in... Pastor Rob or myself will get directions, and find out when someone is going to be there to show us where to put it."

B.J. explains the reason behind the hard work. "The goal has always been to help out those who are financially needy such as seniors, the disabled, or single moms on a low income. For as it says in Galatians 6:9-10: *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest,*

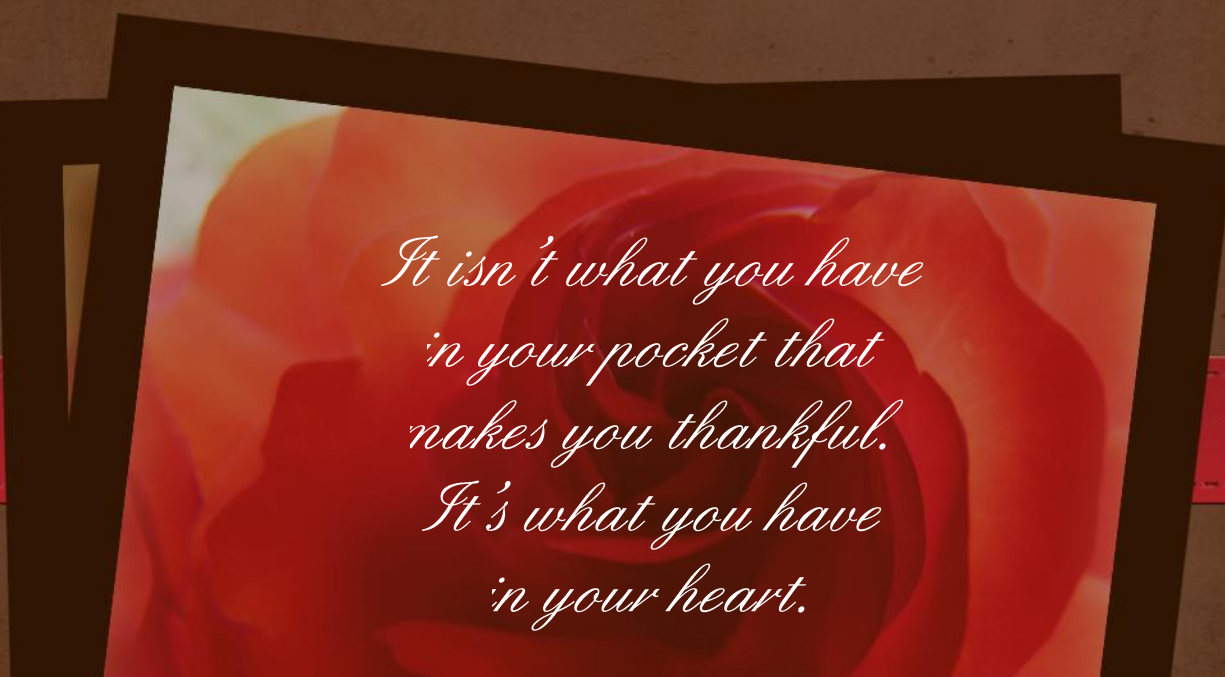
if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." B.J. also points to James 1:27 as another guiding principle: *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after widows and orphans in their distress...*

This is work which provides an immediate impact on local families. In order to continue to use this ministry as an outreach to others, more hands are needed. "Each fall, we have a Saturday morning wood day, where people bring splitters, saws, and trucks, and we cut, split, and deliver to those in need." There is no need to wait until the fall to get involved, though! Simply contact Bill Jensen through the office. "We always need help cutting, splitting, loading, delivering," B.J. points out. "No tools necessary, just being physically able to assist!"

An Update From Becky Jose

"Thanks again for the privilege to share our hearts with you just before the holidays. Also, thank you for the sweet Christmas gift, we were able to apply it towards visiting family in Southern California. Jon's nephew (from Lady Bird Johnson High School in San Antonio, TX) was in the Rose Parade in Pasadena.... it was a once in a lifetime experience.

February 15-17 will be WyldLife's Winter Weekend at Woodleaf. Jon has been designated to participate in the program for the weekend. This involves him up-front to lead the came in skits and games for the 7th & 8th graders. Please pray for health, safety and laughter (pure kid fun)! We have asked for 30 spots at Woodleaf for the weekend. This camp will be shared with the Bay Area and already 480 spots have been claimed for kids. Please pray... for finances and travel arrangements to work out. Pray that God reveals the great plan He has for us to continue to make club happen for the kids."



*It isn't what you have
in your pocket that
makes you thankful.
It's what you have
in your heart.*

...continued from page 1

She prayed, "God, I don't want to pedal myself, but women need to know." She felt it was the right thing to do to speak on the subject, and was already thinking about the topic when the pastor's wife approached her about publicly speaking—on the very same subject!

When asked what led her to choose this topic, Warka explains, "In my previous journeys to Mexico and other regions, I spoke with women from different backgrounds and settings, and the universal thread I would hear is that everybody wants to be loved. God revealed early to me that He loves me unconditionally and deeply, because I am His child. Once we know God's love for us, we can fully surrender to His will, His Word, and His way."

In April 2013, Warka was working on memorizing scripture, when she felt the Lord lead her to Psalm 18, especially verses 30-36. A few weeks later, in April, she was diagnosed with lymph & breast cancer. The words from that Psalm were an immediate comfort to her as she received her diagnosis, and with her throughout her recovery. They were at the core of her thoughtful presentation to the ladies.



Let us always meet each other
with a smile, for a smile is the
beginning of love. ♡ Mother Theresa

Mexico Outreach Team Report

Our Mexico Outreach team has just returned from their latest excursion south of the border! The team (see sidebar on page 4) left PBC at 4:00 am on Saturday, January 4 for the long drive to Baja. They arrived at their destination, San Felipe, late in the afternoon.

San Felipe, population 25,000 was founded in 1916 as a commercial fishing port on the Sea of Cortez. Still operating a sizeable shrimp-fishing fleet of small pangas, the town's principal income has changed over the past five years, from fishing to tourism and retirement living & real estate. As many as 250,000 Americans and Canadians visit annually.

After a day of recuperation, the team set to work at various projects around the 99 +1 Ministries facilities. The ladies got busy painting the bakery, David McCreary began repairs on ministry vehicles, and the rest of the men poured a foundation for an expanded living area at Neuva Cancion (which in English means "New Song.")

Chuck Wilson explains, "We have worked in the past at Nueva Cancion, the regional Christian men's rehabilitation center, and it was natural for us, especially the men, to continue to help upgrade their facility, especially since the construction will enhance the home of our friend Luis and his wife. And, since we have grown to love the goodies that come from the bakery run by Daniel Rodan it was natural to take on the task of cleaning and repainting the bakery interior. So the ladies in our group kept busy all week on this project." The result? A bakery that is cleaned and painted and looks great, and the completion of the concrete and steel footing for a new room for Luis and his wife.

... continued on page 4...

At left: Warka & Vivian



Above: scenic view of Sea of Cortez
taken by David McCreary

Mexico Outreach Team Report

...continued from page 3

Chuck says, "I know [99 + 1 Ministries] pretty well and know that the Gilberts are continuing to upgrade their mission site and their work with the elderly living there. The original building is quite old and the goal has been to continue to remodel and modernize the facilities.

One ongoing goal of our trips is *not* to create extra work for the missionary. Often, groups have grandiose ideas of what "needs" to be accomplished. They've read about "it," or heard about "it" and think it would be great to accomplish "it" even if the missionary must then drop what he or she is doing and make extra preparation to accommodate the group. We listen carefully to what John [Gilbert] has to say. He sometimes gives us choices. His suggestions are almost always right in line with what we are thinking. It is so helpful that he knows us well, and we know him well, and have worked the site for years. John is great at working with the group, and allows God to give us an awesome experience."

continued on page 5...

KATHY DOWNER'S

TAMALE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

package of tamales (enough to
cover bottom of dish)
1 pound ground beef
2 cans Hormel No-Beans chili
1 can corn
1 can of Ro*Tel tomatoes with
green chiles
grated cheese

Brown the ground beef, adding the corn and the tomatoes. Layer the bottom of a 9x11 casserole dish with the tamales. Spread the beef mixture over the tamales and cover with the Hormel sauce. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake at 350 until heated through.

Kathy says, "I sometimes top it with crumbled tortilla chips or French fried onions!"

January 2014
Mexico Team Roster:

Chuck Wilson, Jim Eggert,
WilleJune Eggert, Hogan Fitzpatrick,
Paxton Fitzpatrick, Juliana Eggert,
Sarah Wickman, Max Fitzpatrick,
Cody Schilling, David McCreary,
Jonathan Eggert, Sarah Nguyen,
and Cindy McLeran.

LOVE

Child Sponsorship Matters

Niger is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. It's 15 million citizens earn an average of \$360 US dollars per year. In 2009 it ranked last of 182 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index, which measures the general well-being of a population. The country's economy largely depends on agriculture and uranium exports, but frequent droughts and declining uranium demand have severely hurt the economy.

Nigerians, particularly children, struggle with health concerns, with child mortality rates the fourth worst in the world. (143 of every 1,000 children under the age of 5 die each year.) Only 48% of the population has access to clean water, leaving them susceptible to disease. Over 600,000 people are living with AIDS, and there are over 25,000 children who have been orphaned by HIV.

Only 30% of Nigerians can read and write, the majority of them men. School attendance is low, and few of those who start school actually finish. Many children, especially girls, stay home to take care of ailing family members or to work in the fields.

Issakou Ali is a Nigerian child with a chance at a better life, thanks to his sponsors (a PBC family) and World Vision. Please read more about him on the Child Sponsorship bulletin board across the hall from the library.

...continued from page 4

Cody Schilling tells us more from his perspective: "Mexico was and always is something I look forward to. The way God is able to impact lives all over the world and to be able to be a part of it, only for a week at a time, is an incredible thing. I am continually amazed at the way God keeps such strong ties between believers even with much time in between."

"As I sat in church the first day we arrived, I was being convicted by the Lord in the message that Pastor Cesar was preaching, about following after what God places on our heart and acting upon it, not just letting it be an after-thought. In our morning devotions, we talked about how God has a unique story for each of our lives, and allowing Him to set the story line He has already begun, and not trying to change things as we see fit. I also loved how we talked about how God has equipped us in every way for what lies ahead of us, and that we need to be obedient in whatever He calls us to do. Bonnie [Gilbert] spoke about how Paul teaches us to be content in wherever we are and whatever we are doing, and not being content in the places God has us is not trusting God."

Most of the team left early the morning of Saturday the 11th, and after a long wait to cross the border back into the U.S., and a little rain on the way home, arrived back at PBC around 7:00 pm.



At right: the painting being done at the bakery in San Felipe